



On The Grapevine

A quality education in a caring, innovative environment

November 2013 (Issue 1)

Our hearts go out to the many families who have been affected by the bush fires. Thank you to our wonderful school community for supporting our bush fire appeal dress up and healthy food fundraising day yesterday. We have forwarded over \$330 to the bush fire fund. A special thank you to Carol for organising the generous donation of the fruit and the wonderful canteen volunteers for preparing it.

A great celebration

The students in the academically gifted class presented their research on sustainability at the celebration held on Monday 21 October. The students had explored and analysed the real meaning of sustainability in its many forms, what it means for our environment, our bodies, flora and fauna. The presentations were very informative and most interesting.

Youth Eco Summit

38 of our senior students attended the Youth Eco Summit at Homebush on Wednesday 23 October. The photos below show the students engaged in many hands on activities promoting awareness and understanding about sustainable practices for the future.

The students were able to travel to and from the venue and enter free of charge because Mrs Brown had submitted an application outlining our commitment to the environment and sustainability. Thank you Mrs Brown.



More photos are posted on our website.



Maths and science Expo

40 senior students will be attending the maths and science expo at the Parramatta campus of the University of Western Sydney on Monday 4 November. This expo offers hands on stalls and interactive live shows incorporating Science and Maths. Places to attend this expo were limited and much sought after so we are pleased to report we were successful in securing the maximum number of places available for schools.

Assemblies

There are only 2 more school assemblies this term, in weeks 6 and 8. Parents are welcome to enjoy a cuppa after the assemblies. I apologise that I am not able to join you as I am out of the school at meetings and panels on both of these dates. We are unable to have an assembly in Week 10 because the hall will be set up for the Year 6 farewell being held that evening. I look forward to catching up with you on presentation day in Week 10.

Promoting healthy lifestyles

At the Kindergarten Orientation last Tuesday, parents received a show bag with suggestions and resources to assist parents with providing healthy lunches and snacks at school. We have one bag in the office. If you would like a copy the resources/suggestions please come to the office to have a look at the show bag and, if possible, we will copy the resources of interest to you.

On Wednesday 30 November, the students in Kindy, K/2L, 1/2P, 1/2O and 2/6R attended the *kNOw* Waste education program run by Transpacific Cleanaway called *Smart Shopping*. The lesson focused on how we can reduce the amount of waste we generate by rethinking the way we shop. We discussed:

- How to identify well-packaged food items
- How to avoid wasteful packaging that we don't need
- How we can make the most of our recycling system by buying recyclable and reusable items

The students were given two similar items, one that had a lot of packaging that needed to be thrown away and the other that only had a small amount to be thrown away or recycled. In small groups they had to work together to decide which item would be the “smartest” to buy in order to reduce waste going to landfill.

In the classroom

Jemma received a Principal's sticker for her excellent writing.

I have visited the Year 6 classroom and read the amazing descriptive texts the students have written, using sophisticated language and personification. I want to share an example of this outstanding work. This piece was written by Sebastian.

The grass area

*As the children joyfully scream and shout in the close distance, the not to be seen
colourful birds sing like long lost melodies.*

The chattering crickets continuously chirp indulgingly in a contest with themselves.

*The pushy wind whispers ‘shhh’, while it nags, without regret, the seemingly
unresponsive grass and trees which shuffle in its presence.*

*The whizzing bees almost robotically, yet with curiosity fly drastically from flower to
flower,*

*and an odd swooping bird flying past, is energetically looking for a pink juicy snack.
So majestically peaceful,
yet so amazingly busy.*

Bennelong Cup Table Tennis Competition

Our table tennis teams certainly held their own in a very competitive field at the Bennelong Cup table tennis championships on Friday 25 October. The students played individually and as doubles teams so they played many games on the day.

Congratulations to Joel, Jon, Emilio, Will, Olivia and Maeve



Selective high school for Year 7 in 2015

Instructions on how to apply online are available at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement.

Parents of Year 5 students have also received intention to apply forms. For those without internet access, application forms will be sent home. Applications close 18 November 2013.

Parent Drop in Service

Just a reminder about the **drop in parent service Mondays from 2.15 -3:15pm.**

Sharlene Pasqual, Family and Community Worker for Parramatta Mission- Women and Children's Services is providing this weekly drop in service at school in the B block classroom closest to the breezeway (room next to 3 / 4H).

The aim of the service is to help support parents by providing assistance through information, support and education. There will be one on one advice available for parents that may include referrals for any specific needs including doctors, psychologist, parent support groups, playgroups and much more.

I encourage all parents to take advantage of this excellent, free service conveniently available at school.

Student Wellbeing

Principal's Bronze Awards:

Level 2: Freeman, Jayden, Aidan

Level 3: Ansh

Pop into the office to see the artwork by 1/2O that is brightening our foyer.

Keryn Hinchcliffe

Principal

1 November 2013

Dates For Your Diary

1 November	Kindy Playsession for pre-schoolers 1.55pm
4 November	Maths and Science expo, Parramatta– Years 5 and 6
4 November	Drop in parent service 2.15-3.15pm
4 November	P&C meeting school library at 6.30pm
6 November	K-2 excursion to Casula Powerhouse
8 November	Kindy Playsession for pre-schoolers 1.55pm
13 November	Preschool orientation morning 9.30-11am
14 November	Assembly and afternoon coffee 1.55pm
15 November	Preschool Orientation morning 9.30-11am



Congratulations to Our Ozzie Mozzie Award Winners:



Ashleigh	Jun	Sarah	Will S	Rikki	Ali
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Thank you Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club

Thank you to the generous Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club for their donation to the ASD support classes. The classes have purchased five iPads, sensory equipment, classroom supplies and playground equipment. The donation is greatly appreciated by the teachers and students.

Emma Lodewijks